

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 were presented for examination in the present application. The instant amendment adds new claims 18-20. Thus, claims 1-20 are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment.

The specification has been amended to include the headings required by MPEP 608.01(a). In addition, the first paragraph of the detailed description has been amended to refer to Figures 1 and 2, instead of just Figure 1.

The Office Action restricted claims 1-17 as follows: Group I, claims 1-12 and 14-16 drawn to a method and Group II, claims 13 and 17 drawn to an apparatus. The Office Action asserts that Groups I and II do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1

Applicants elect, with traverse, the claims of Group I, namely claims 1-12 and 14-16.

It is submitted that the Office Action has failed to make a *prima facie* case requiring restriction. Specifically, it is submitted that the Office Action applied only PCT Rule 13.1 in the requirement for restriction. Thus, it is submitted that the Office Action has failed to apply the proper standard in making the restriction requirement.

It is submitted that Title 35 of the United States Code, Section 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and/or the procedures U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as set forth in the *Manual for Patent Examining Practice* are the proper grounds for requiring restriction of a U.S. Patent Application. Since the Office Action has applied an improper ground for restriction, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action has failed to make a *prima facie* case requiring restriction.

It is also submitted that Office Action has failed to make a *prima facie* case that search and examination of Groups I and II places serious burden on the Examiner. Specifically, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the

examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. See MPEP 803. It is respectfully submitted that searching the subject matter of Groups I and II, as outlined in the restriction requirement, does not place a serious burden on the Examiner.

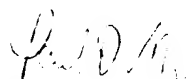
For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Requirement for Restriction with regard to Groups I and II and requests examination of all of the pending claims.

Claims 18-20 have been added to point out various aspects of the present application. It is submitted that new claims 18-20 are directed to a method as in elected Group I. Support for new claims 18-19 can be found in the specification at least at page 10, lines 13-26. Support for new claim 20 can be found at least in original claim 11.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for examination. Such action is most earnestly solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, he is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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